



The Brookhaven Town
Democratic Committee

October 3, 2009

NEWS RELEASE

Contact: Brian Eckhouse, 631-766-5631

Leonard pitches plan for Shoreham site and programs to ease tax burdens

WADING RIVER – John Leonard, the Democratic candidate for the Second Council seat, unveiled his four-point plan at a press conference Friday to boost our economy and ease our tax burdens. The plan includes:

- Transforming the former Shoreham nuclear power plant into a hub for green technology. The hub would be the fourth leg of the “Research Quadrangle,” with Brookhaven National Labs, Stony Brook University, and Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories – and create hundreds of jobs for local workers.
- Launching the New Business Tax Abatement program, which would abate taxes for all new businesses relocating into empty storefronts on Route 25A and area downtowns in 2010.
- Stabilizing taxes for all seniors age 70 and above who qualify for the enhanced Star program.

“Economic revitalization is the best solution to ease our economic ills and troubles,” said Leonard, Brookhaven's Deputy Supervisor for Constituent Services. “By transforming the Shoreham site into a hub for green excellence and by targeting blight along Route 25A and in our downtowns, we can jump-start our economy and still protect the character of our rural hamlets.”

Brookhaven Supervisor Mark Lesko said the recession is a time for action, not delay.

“John believes that we should take the money that we're spending on another corridor study destined to collect dust on a bookshelf and instead incentive new business,” Supervisor Lesko said. “John will help stimulate our local economy.”

Mary Daum, a past president of the Shoreham Civic Organization and member of the Brookhaven Planning Board, added: “Why not take the power plant and make it something useful? John's plan would improve the commercial footprint. It'll help our tax base. It helps the entire community.”

Shoreham resident Jay Ratto, president of J. Ratto Landscaping in Coram, also endorsed the plan.

“We need to revitalize our local economy – and the best way to do that is to put local workers back to work,” Ratto said. “Revitalizing the Shoreham site into a hub for green manufacturing would bring in hundreds, if not thousands, of jobs for engineers, contractors, plumbers and landscapers. And we wouldn't have to overrun our hamlets to put people back to work. We need a community leader like John Leonard.”

###